

# joint statement

Walker, Brent H <Brent.H.Walker@wv.gov>

Fri 9/6/2019 8:51 AM

To: Brad McElhinny <Brad.McElhinny@wvradio.com>;

## **Joint statement from West Virginia Department of Transportation Secretary Byrd E. White and Deputy Secretary Jimmy Wriston, P.E.**

"For the past five months, we have been joined at the hip; working together to accomplish our number one goal of fixing our state's road system. The result has been one of, if not the single most productive year of road maintenance in the history of the Division of Highways.

Since taking on leadership duties with the WVDOT, we have made a number of organizational changes geared toward allowing us to work more efficiently. This is one of them. Secretary White will serve as Commissioner of Highways and Deputy Secretary Wriston will serve as Deputy Commissioner of Highways. This particular change makes us more in line with a corporate organization, where there is a CEO and a COO. As to the division of duties, we will continue operating the same way that we always have: the two of us discuss every major issue that has come to our attention and agree on a course of action.

At the end of the day, we care less about our titles and more about getting work done. We view each other as equal partners – each with our own unique skill sets and diverse backgrounds covering highway planning, finance, construction, maintenance, management, and supervision – that make us a dynamic, highly qualified team. We have cultivated an atmosphere of accountability within the Division of Highways and we will continue putting our heads together, every step of the way, to continue getting the roads fixed, just as we have over the past several months."

**From:** Brad McElhinny <Brad.McElhinny@wvradio.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 5, 2019 12:19 PM

**To:** Walker, Brent H <Brent.H.Walker@wv.gov>

**Subject:** Re: [External] Highways

Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 5, 2019, at 12:16 PM, Walker, Brent H <[Brent.H.Walker@wv.gov](mailto:Brent.H.Walker@wv.gov)> wrote:

Working on that for you.

Brent

**From:** Brad McElhinny <[Brad.McElhinny@wvradio.com](mailto:Brad.McElhinny@wvradio.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 5, 2019 8:15 AM

**To:** Damron, Jordan L <[Jordan.L.Damron@wv.gov](mailto:Jordan.L.Damron@wv.gov)>; Walker, Brent H <[Brent.H.Walker@wv.gov](mailto:Brent.H.Walker@wv.gov)>

**Subject:** [External] Highways

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are expecting the content. -- WV Office of Technology

Hi,

I read over the weekend that there were a couple of organizational changes with Highways, with Byrd White becoming highways commissioner and Jimmy Wriston becoming deputy commissioner.

I haven't seen that anywhere else, so I wondered if I read it right.

Could you confirm and possibly shed more light on the reasoning? I would also like to know more about the division of duties.

And is there an issue with the Highways commissioner being experienced in highway planning, finance, construction, maintenance, management and supervision?

Thank you,

Brad